(d) whether Railway Board consulted the concerned State Governments in that respect;

(e) whether State Governments came up with their requirements;

(f) whether Railways is factoring in the developmental needs of the concerned State Governments while doing so; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. The Railways Act, 1989 was amended with a view to set in place a mechanism to undertake commercial development of that vacant railway land and air-space which is not required by Railways for its immediate future operational needs. Consequently, Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) was set up through the Railway (Amendment) Act, 2005. 133 sites measuring 3744 acre have been entrusted to RLDA on various Zonal Railways for commercial development.

In addition, Railways plan to utilize its vacant land, wherever feasible, for setting up of various infrastructural projects, which include Rail Coach and Component factories, Multi-Modal Logistic Parks, Auto hubs, Cold Storage & Perishable Cargo Centres, and others through innovative financing models in order to earn more revenue for the railways, create additional railway infrastructure and also generate employment opportunities. Consultation with State Governments is done wherever required.

Survey of new rail line from Jogighopa to Guwahati

3355. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of survey of new railway line between Jogighopa and Guwahati *via* Barpeta, Hajoia and Sualohir;

(b) whether survey of the above new line would be completed in the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the amount fixed for the said survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No survey has been sanctioned for construction of a new railway line between Jogighopa and Guwahati *via* Barpeta, Hajoia, Sualohir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Filling up of vacant group 'C' and 'D' posts

†3356. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that group 'C' and 'D' posts are lying vacant due to retirement of employees of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to fill up these posts; and

(d) whether Government is contemplating to constitute separate Railway Recruitment Board by giving special priority to Darjeeling Himalayan Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) As on 31.10.09, 54 Group 'C' and 57 Group 'D' posts are lying vacant in Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

(c) Filling of vacant posts is a continuous process and the policy of the railway administration is to fill up all available vacant posts promptly as per laid down procedure.

(d) A new Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) has been set up at Siliguri to cater to the needs of Katihar and Alipurduar Divisions of Northeast Frontier Railway. Darjeeling Himalayan Railway forms part of Katihar Division.

Proposal to make Ajmer world class railway station

†3357. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make Ajmer Railway station a world class station in the Railway Budget 2009-10;

(b) if so, the target set for starting and completing the same; and

(c) the details regarding world standard norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ajmer Railway Station has been identified for development into World Class Station through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Preliminary activities have been taken up. No target date for completion has been fixed.

(c) It is planned to provide state-of-the-art station building with good architecture and having segregation of arrival/departure of passengers, modern amenities like food plazas, currency exchange counter, tourist info booth, retail outlets, internet cafe, ATM facilities, Hotels, car rentals, prepaid taxi booths wherever feasible, well illuminated circulating area, etc.

Unmanned railway level crossings

†3358. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) out of 16976 unmanned and 17244 manned railway crossings in the country, the total number of railway crossings that are proposed to be made man operated, zone-wise;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.